

Message Text

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SUBJ: SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON UNDOF

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW IN PARA 2 TEXT OF "OBSERVATIONS" SECTION OF SYG'S REPORT ON UNDOF AND IN PARA 3 THE TWO PARAGRAPHS OF REPORT (11 AND 13) DEALING WITH FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT QUESTION. (REPORT POUCHES IO/UNP VUNOVIC.)

2. V. OBSERVATIONS

41. WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE, FIGHTING BETWEEN ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES CAME TO AN END ON 31 MAY 1974. SINCE THAT TIME THE SITUATION ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS HAS BEEN QUIET.

42 UNLIKE PREVIOUS UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES, UNDOF WAS SET UP FOR THE
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PURPOSE OF SUPERVISING A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BY THE

PARTIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STIPULATIONS AGREED TO BY TEM. DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, UNDOF WAS ABLE, WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE DPARTIES, TO FULFIL THE TASKS ENTRUSTED TO IT. SUCH DIFFICULTIES AS AROSE IN RELATION TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS WERE RESOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PARTIES.

43. IT IS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT THAT IT IS NOT A PEACE AGREEMENT BUT A STEP TOWARDS A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE ON THE BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973) OF 22 OCTOBER 1973. DESPITE THE PRESENT QUIET, THE SITUATION IN THE ISRAEL-SYRIAN SECTOR WILL REMAIN FUNDAMENTALLY UNSTABLE AND POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SO LONG AS PROGRESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT OF THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS IS NOT ACHIEVED.

44. I CONSIDER THAT THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF UNDOF IS ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PRESENT QUIET IN THE AREA, BUT ALSO TO ASSIST ANY FURTHER EFFORTS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AS MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ARE AWARE, I HAVE JUST PAID A VISIT TO THE AREA, PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS AND CLARIFY WITH THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED THE QUESTION NOW BEFORE THE COUNCIL. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, I RECOMMEND THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL EXTEND THE MANDATE OF UNDOF FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.

45. WHEN UNDOF WAS FIRST SET UP, I PROPOSED, AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCURRED, THAT IT SHOULD BE MADE UP OF CERTAIN CONTINGENTS TRANSFERRED FROM UNEF AND OF SOME 90 MILITARY OBSERVERS DRAWN FROM UNTSO. THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS WORKED OUT SATISFACTORILY AND, BY USING THE RESOURCES OF THE TWO EXISTING PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HAS RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS. IT IS MY INTENTION TO CONTINUE THIS ARRANGEMENT IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD DECIDE TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF UNDOF.

46. IN CONCLUDING THIS REPORT, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONTRIBUTING TROOPS TO UNDOF AND TO THOSE WHICH PROVIDE

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UNTSO MILITARY OBSERVERS ASSIGNED TO UNDOF. I WISH TO REITERATE THE EXPRESSION OF MY DEEP SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AND TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE MEMBERS OF UNDOF WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE. I WISH ALSO TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE INTERIM FORCE COMMANDER, BRIGADIER-GENERAL GONZALO BRINCENO ZEVALLOS, TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF UNDOF AND TO ITS CIVILIAN STAFF, AS

WELL AS TO UNTSO MILITARY OBSERVERS ASSIGNED TO UNDOF, FOR THE EFFICIENT MANNER IN WHICH THEY HAVE PERFORMED THEIR IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT DUTIES.

3. PARAS 11 AND 13 OF SYG'S REPORT,

11. DISCUSSIONS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER WAY BY UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS AT HEADQUARTERS IN NEW AND OFFICIALS OF ISRAEL AND SYRIA RESPECTIVELY IN CONNEXION WITH THE NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENTS ON THE STATUS OF THE FORCE. THE MAIN OBJECT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IS TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS THAT WILL EMBODY THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER AND OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS WELL AS THE EXPERIENCE OF PREVIOUS UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS, SO AS TO ENSURE THE INDEPENDENT FUNCTIONING OF THE FORCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES, UNDOF IS TO "ENJOY FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND COMMUNICATION AND OTHER FACILITIES THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR ITS MISSION".

13. IN THE SIX MONTHS SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT UNDOF, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF BOTH PARTIES, HAS OVERCOME A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES IN ORDER TO BE IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUT ITS TASKS EFFECTIVELY. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS STILL OUTSTANDING RELATES TO RESTRICTIONS ON THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF SOME UNDOF PERSONNEL. I HAVE ALREADY HAD OCCASION TO REFER TO THIS PROBLEM IN MY REPORT ON UNEF (S/11536, PARA. 26). AS IN THE CASE OF UNEF, I HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT UNDOF MUST FUNCTION AS AN INTEGRATED AND EFFICIENT MILITARY UNIT WITH THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT SPECIFIED IN THE PROTOCOL TO THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, THAT IS CONTINGENTS MUST SERVE ON AN EQUAL BASIS UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE INTERIM FORCE COMMANDER AND THAT NO DIFFERENTIATION

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CAN BE MADE REGARDING THE UNITED NATIONS STATUS OF VARIOUS CONTINGENTS. AS IN THE CASE OF UNEF, THE MATTER IS BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED.

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